

Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 23, 26-30, and 32-34 as being anticipated by Reed (4,567,710). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Claim 23 requires the internal muntin bar that provides the simulated divided lite appearance to the glazing unit to have a flexible, collapsible outer muntin grid element substantially surrounding a rigid inner muntin grid element. The Reed reference cited by the Examiner does not have an outer muntin grid element that substantially surrounds an inner muntin grid element. The embodiment of the Reed disclosure cited by the Examiner has outer connectors that are connected to the opposed ends of the I-beam of the inner muntin grid element. The Reed connectors do not, however, substantially surround the I-beam portion of the Reed muntin grid element to hide the inner muntin grid element from view on both sides of the insulating glazing unit. The middle portion 34 of the Reed inner muntin grid element remains visible when the Reed connectors (9) are attached. The Reed configuration thus does not meet the claim limitation requiring the outer muntin grid element to substantially surround the inner muntin grid element.

In addition, the Reed connectors (9) are not flexible and collapsible in the manner recited in claim 23. The outer muntin grid element of claim 23 is capable of being collapsed upon itself to a collapsed position and reopened to an open position. The Reed connectors (9) are disclosed as being a plastic material such as a fiber reinforced polyester resin or other similar material. Although such materials may be somewhat flexible as described in at Col 4, line 59, they are generally rigid and not used to form structures that can be collapsed onto themselves and reopened to an open position.

Independent claim 33 requires the outer muntin grid element to be in the form of a tube which is capable of being collapsed upon itself and reopened to a tube form. The claim also requires the tube to surround at least three sides of the inner muntin grid element. The Reed embodiments do not have an outer muntin grid element in the form of a collapsible tube that surrounds at least three sides of the inner muntin grid element. The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's interpretation that Reed's two separate and spaced apart connectors form a tube. Two separate and spaced apart

members do not meet the normal definition of a tube as consistently used in this application. The Applicant thus respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

The Examiner also rejected claims 23, 33, and 39 as being anticipated by Berdan. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Berdan does not disclose, teach, or suggest muntin grid piece structures. Berdan's Figs. 8 and 9 disclose a perimeter spacer cap that defines a channel that holds a desiccant material. Claims 23, 33, and 39 have been amended to specifically recite an internal muntin bar that provides a divided-lite appearance to the glazing unit. The Applicant thus respectfully requests the rejection to be withdrawn.

As described above, the Applicant submits independent claims 23 and 33 are patentable over the art. The Applicant also submits the dependent claims are independently patentable over the art.

The Examiner rejected claims 44-47 and 49 as being anticipated by Kessler. The Examiner rejected claims 44-46 as being anticipated by Stoakes. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. The references do not disclose muntin bar structures. Claim 44 and its dependent claims recite the structure of combined inner and outer muntin grid elements. In addition, both of the structures cited by the Examiner in these references are extruded in their final form. They are thus not folded in the manner recited in claim 44. Further, the outer elements shown in Kessler do not have the spaced longitudinal ends that define the width of the body. Such ends are not formed when the outer element is extruded in tube form. Claim 44 requires the outer muntin grid element body to have spaced longitudinal ends that define the width of the body. The outer member of Kessler has no such ends. In addition, the references also do not disclose the claimed notches that are aligned with the corners of the inner muntin grid element. Kessler's outer element is extruded in final tube form with no need for notches that allow the member to be folded around an inner member. The Stoakes element is also extruded in its final form with no need for the notches that allow it to be folded around the inner member. In view of these differences, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

The Applicant submits the dependent claims are also patentable over the art. The Applicant submits the independent claims are patentable and are in condition for allowance. The Applicant submits the allowability of the independent claims obviates the rejections of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowance for the claims. If any issues remain after this amendment, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 21st day of November, 2005.

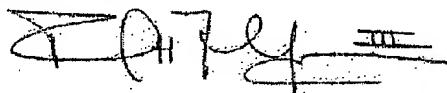
Zollinger & Burleson Ltd.



By: Fred H. Zollinger, III
Reg. No. 39,438
P.O. Box 2368
North Canton, Ohio 44720
Telephone: (330) 526-0104
Facsimile: (866) 311-9964
Attorney Docket: 1663-I-CIP

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment F in application serial no. 09/775,074 filed February 1, 2001) is being submitted via facsimile on this 21st day of November, 2005.



Fred H. Zollinger III